



NEWS RELEASE

OFFICE OF THE STATE'S ATTORNEY FOR HOWARD COUNTY

For Immediate Release:

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Lusby Man Sentenced to 20 Years in Prison for Bank Robbery

A Lusby man convicted on two counts of armed robbery of a bank customer and teller was sentenced to 20 years in prison this morning. Shawn Michael Cowens, 41, of the 1100 block of El Dorado Drive, Lusby, was arrested last January and pleaded guilty to two counts of armed robbery in Howard County Circuit Court on July 11.

According to police and prosecutors, a knife-wielding Cowens entered the Sandy Spring Bank branch at 704 Lisbon Center Drive, Woodbine, shortly before noon on January 11, 2017. He robbed a waiting customer of \$978. Cowens then demanded money from a bank teller before he fled with an additional \$4,500. A citizen, who witnessed the bank robbery, followed Cowens north on Route 94 to a wooded area, just north of the shopping center, where he was arrested by responding police officers. Assistant State's Attorney Susan Weinstein told the court that in a post-Miranda interview, Cowens confessed to the robberies and admitted to carrying a silver-bladed folding knife.

Judge Richard S. Bernhardt noted that Cowens had an "extremely difficult" personal history but that a pre-sentence investigation also reported 12 prior criminal convictions beginning with an armed robbery in 1993. He sentenced Cowens to a 40-year sentence, suspending all but 20 years and ordered Cowens to make restitution for \$699 in unrecovered cash. Upon release, Cowens will be placed on five years of supervised probation.

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